

## THE CITIZEN SOLDIER

SOON TO DISPLAY HIS SKILL AT THE OMAHA ENCAMPMENT.

This is the Centennial Year of American Militia and the Approaching National Competitive Drill has Aroused a Wide-spread Interest.

The approaching encampment of the National Competitive Drill association, to be held in Omaha during the week beginning June 13, is but the ripe fruition of the idea embodied in the recommendation made by George Washington after the close of the Revolutionary war to the governors of the original thirteen states. The "Father of his Country" then suggested "the adoption of a proper peace establishment, in which care should be taken to place the militia throughout the Union on a proper and efficient footing."

The United States has since passed through the "general muster day" period into the present national guard system, until now, as will be evidenced at the encampment at Omaha, the militia of many of the states of the Union can furnish men who in case of war would not compare unfavorably with the regular army organization.

Last September the secretary of war approved a set of new drill regulations



COLONEL H. B. MULFORD.

recommended to him for use in the army, and these will govern all the contests at Omaha.

The contesting organizations at the encampment will find in the prizes promised enough of honor and pecuniary reward to act as powerful incentives for the putting forth of their best endeavors. There will be \$10,000 in cash prizes. Half of this amount will be assigned to the national infantry drill. But the other branches of the service will not be neglected by any means. There will also be prizes for the artillery, Gatling gun and zouave drills, and a sort of "consolation purse," as horsemen would put it, will be given for the "maiden" infantry.

Two of the crack companies which will compete are the Belknap Rifles and the St. Louis Branch Guards. The former now hold the Galveston semi-centennial cup, representing the championship of the United States, and as there will be present the best drilled organizations from every section of the country, it may confidently be expected that the honor of capturing this much coveted trophy for the ensuing year will be stubbornly contested.

It is expected that there will be present at the encampment more than one hundred companies and drill squads, representing the flower of the national guard of the United States. Several novel features in military tactics and many magnificent drills are promised, and the large number of experts who will attend will make the coming out of every detail of the programme possible. There will be prize swords galore, as the sum of \$1,000 has been expended in purchasing these trophies, which will be awarded to the captains of the various organizations for exceptional proficiency in their duties.

Colonel H. B. Mulford, inspector general of the Nebraska national guard, is the president of the Competitive Drill association. He was elected last year at the organization in Indianapolis. At the same time Colonel John E. Aitchison, of the Omaha guards, was chosen as the first secretary of the national association. Both are well known in militia circles, and both are earnest and active advocates of every measure tending to elevate this important branch of the service.

Washington foresaw the great possibilities of the militia and its importance to the country at large when he de-



COLONEL JOHN E. AITCHISON.

clared, with almost prophetic vision, that "the militia must be considered as the palladium of our security and our first effective resort in case of hostility."

The old law regarding "general muster" is still on the statute books, but the march of improvement and the increased efficiency of volunteer military companies have caused the law to be ignored, as, while the principle at the time it was framed was in the right direction, its enforcement now would only serve to bring the service into contempt. The latest official returns give the number of enlisted and commissioned militiamen in the United States as about 111,000.

## EUROPE'S RULING FAMILIES.

The Descendants of Two Sisters Are at the Head of Many Countries.

It is not generally known that the reigning houses of Europe, with few exceptions, are descended from two sisters, the one being the mother of almost all of the Catholic princes and princesses, and the other of the majority of those of the evangelical confession. The late Frederick Theodore Richter, the historian, first discovered this interesting historical fact in 1876. The genealogical records of the various families in proof of the assertion of Richter, however, have been published for the first time by Dr. Ottokar Lorenz, professor of history in the University of Jena.

The parents of the two sisters whose descendants have become so powerful were two German rulers of comparative insignificance: Duke Louis Rudolph of Brunswick-Wolfenbuetel, who died in 1735, and his wife, Christine Louis, who departed this life in 1747—a daughter of Prince Albrecht Ernst of Oettingen. The elder daughter of the ducal pair, the Princess Elizabeth Christine, after her conversion to the Catholic church, married in 1708 the subsequent Emperor Charles VI of Germany.

The Empress Elizabeth Christine, through her daughter, Maria Theresia, the ancestor of the houses of Habsburg-Lothringia, Tuscany, Sicily and Modena, and—through the marriages of female descendants—the reigning families of Portugal, Brazil and Italy (Savoy-Carignan), Saxony, the present reigning families of Spain and Bavaria, the Spanish Bourbons and all of the Orleans family. These descendants number all told about 400, and belong in the majority of instances to the Catholic church.

The second daughter of the ducal pair mentioned above, the Princess Antoinette Amalie, married her cousin, Duke Ferdinand II of Brunswick-Bevern. The fruits of this marriage were three daughters, the Princesses Louise, Amalie and Julienne, and one son, the Duke Carl. From Princess Louise-Amalie, who married Prince August William of Prussia, a brother of Frederick the Great, and thus became the mother of Frederick William II, is descended the present royal house of Prussia. Through the marriages of other female descendants she is also the female progenitor of the reigning families of Russia, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Baden and the Netherlands.

The second daughter of the Princess Antoinette Amalie, the Princess Sophie, became the wife of Duke Ernst Friedrich of Coburg-Saalfield, and the ancestor in the female line of the entire house of Coburg, and through it of the ruling families of England, Belgium, Hesse-Darmstadt and Portugal.

The third daughter of the Princess Antoinette Amalie, the Princess Julienne, married King Frederic V of Denmark. From her are descended the reigning houses of Denmark, Holstein-Gluecksburg, Hesse-Cassel and Greece.

Finally, from Duke Carl of Brunswick, who died in 1780, the only son of Princess Antoinette Amalie, was descended the house of Brunswick, which became extinct in 1885 by the death of the late duke. Thus Antoinette Amalie, who was gathered to her ancestors in 1763, has had 365 descendants, who, with few exceptions, profess the Protestant form of belief. Duke Louis Rudolph, who died in 1735, has had up to the present time almost 800 descendants, including almost all of the ruling families in Europe.—New York Tribune.

## A Curious Indian Custom.

In the original settlements in British Columbia a peculiar institution occasioned gala times for the red men now and then. This was the "potlatch," a thing to us so foreign, even in the impulse of which it is begotten, that we have no word or phrase to give its meaning. It is a feast and merry-making at the expense of some man who has earned or saved what he deems considerable wealth, and who desires to distribute every iota of it at once in edibles and drinkables among the people of his tribe or village. He does this because he aspires to a chieftainship or merely for the credit of a "potlatch"—a high distinction. Indians have been known to throw away such a sum of money that their "potlatch" has been given in a huge shed built for the feast, and blankets and ornaments have been distributed in addition to the feast.—Julian Ralph in Harper's.

How Ancients Squared the Circle. The rule given by Ahmes requires that the diameter of a circle shall be shortened by one-ninth, and a square erected upon this shortened line. The area of such a square approximates the area of the circle, but, of course, is not exact, and is not even as close a result as that at which other geometricians have arrived.

The Babylonians, who were also great mathematicians, had a solution, to which a reference in the Talmud has been traced. The Babylonian method, however, was not a quadrature, but a rectification of the circumference.—All the World Round.

Home Made Dolls Cheaper. A "doll with real hair" is the desire of most small girls. As a rule, only the expensive varieties of dolls are so endowed. "But," suggests a close shopper, "I buy a seventy-five cent doll for which I get a good kid body with bisque arms and feet, and then at some small hairdresser's I get the joints replaced with a wig of real hair at much less expense than I could buy the doll thus endowed in the first place."—New York Times.

Hoots of the Musk Ox. Vasey says the hoots of the musk ox resemble those of the barren ground caribou so closely as to easily deceive the unaccustomed eye. The external hoof is rounded, the internal pointed.—Horace T. Martin in Popular Science Monthly.

Arguing is a source of annoyance and wears upon the nerves of the listeners, however they have schooled themselves to bear and forbear.



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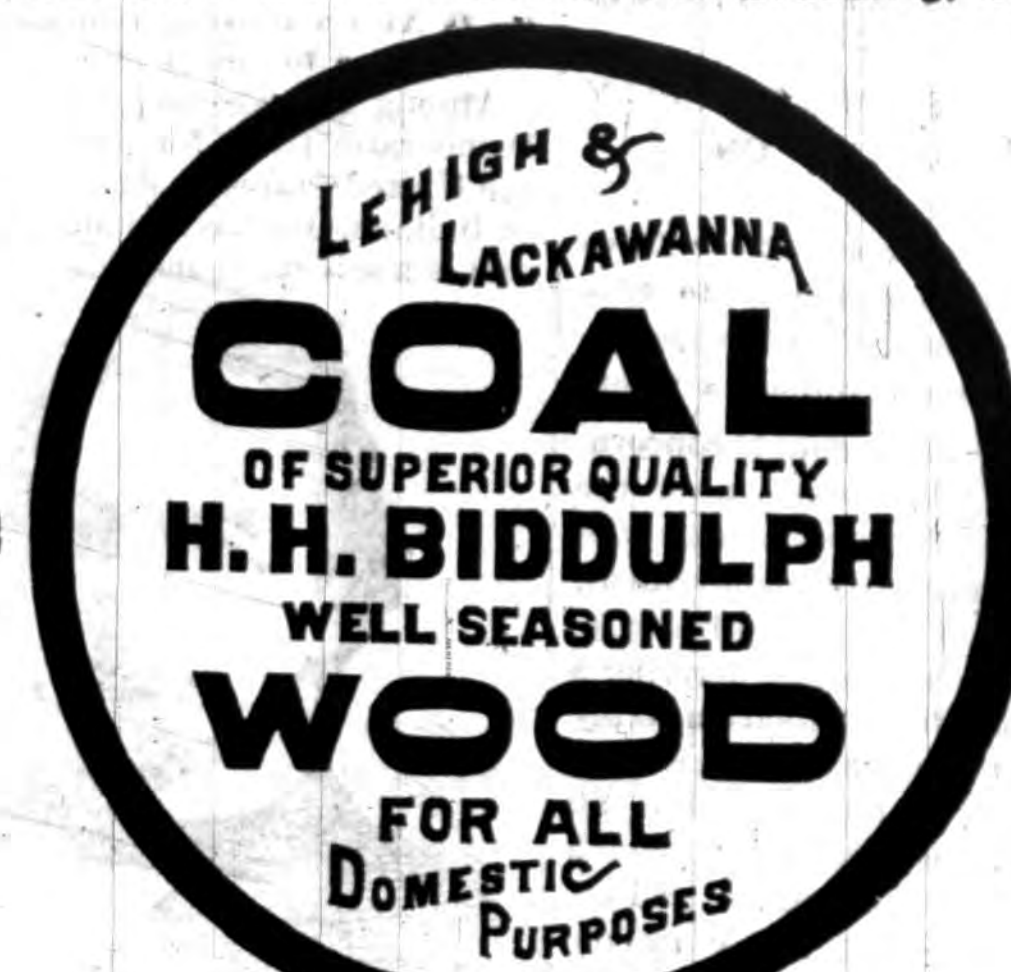
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